THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme (NRDWQM&SP) was launched in March, 2006 with the objective of monitoring and surveillance of all drinking water sources by the Community by using user-friendly field test kits. Positively tested samples are referred to the District water testing laboratories for confirmation.

(b) Under the NRDWQM&SP, amounts of Rs. 57.84 crore and Rs. 102.35 crore were released to all States during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively for taking up various aspects of the programme. An Implementation Manual and training modules were circulated to all States for assisting them in the implementation of the Programme.

(c) Arsenopyrites and Fluorspar, the possible geogenic minerals causing arsenic and fluoride contamination in drinking water respectively are normally considered as hazardous to health. As per Bureau of Indian Standards (IS-10500), any level in excess of 0.01 mg/l of arsenic and/or more than 1.5 mg/l of fluoride in drinking water is consider hazardous.

(d) Drinking water supply is a State subject. The State Government monitor the quality of drinking water supplied in the rural areas. Monthly and quarterly progress reports regarding testing of water samples are sent to Government of India for review. Necessary mitigation measures are taken up by the State Governments in water quality affected habitations for supply of safe drinking water.

Modernisation of spinning mills in Kerala

3801. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representation from the Kerala Government on modernization of spinning mills; and

(b) whether Government would avail facilities under the Textile Upgradation Fund to modernize spinning mills in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, all textile units of the country, including the spinning mills in Kerala, are eligible to modernize, provided they meet the norms of the scheme.

Financial Grants to weavers

3802. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to provide financial grants to weavers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds for the same granted by Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for development and promotion of handloom sector under the textiles industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handloom, Ministry of Textiles is implementing a number of schemes to provide financial assistance to the eligible of handloom agencies to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. The main developmental schemes implemented during Tenth Plan Period were Deen Dayal